



BUCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Newsletter No 6

Firstly, an apology! When Buckland Parish Council (BPC) first introduced these newsletters, we said we would be sending them out every 3-4 months. Unfortunately, this year we have been delayed in sending out the latest newsletter as we were hoping to give better updates on the changes to the planning system at Buckinghamshire Council. These were due to occur over the summer, but for various reasons there have been delays. More on this later.

This year we had a very hot summer, and the grass has grown and grown. However, we seem to have been able to keep on top of the grass cutting with our new contractors that we engaged for 2025. We will be going to tender again in the next few months for the 2026 grass cutting contract. We have previously mentioned that BPC cut the grass in the churchyard for All Saints Church as a goodwill gesture, we have continued to do this in 2025 and worked with the Rev Sally Bottomer and the PCC to ensure that the area remains well maintained. We would like to thank those residents who have continued to maintain their verges and hedges to ensure they do not encroach on the highways, and again a gentle reminder to all residents that they are responsible for ensuring that any hedges or verges that protrude over ditches remain cleared.

As winter approaches the inevitable potholes will start to appear. If you notice a pothole, please report it on Fix my Street – www.fixmystreet.com. It's even better if you can attach a photo of the offending hole. Anything reported via this website is reported to Buckinghamshire Council who then add it to the repairs list. Fix my street can also be used to report any issues with streetlights on the main London Road/Tring Hill. If you notice any issues with streetlights on Buckland Road please report to the Parish Clerk. We have reported the issues with the lights outside the previous Homesitters site to Buckinghamshire Council. They have been out to check on the lights, but they need to do further underground investigations to sort this issue, please be assured we are chasing this issue repeatedly with Bucks.

Speeding Cars



BPC have had lots of complaints about the increase in traffic on Buckland Road from the junction on Tring Hill down to the crossroads on the Lower Icknield Way. This problem has increased significantly since the introduction of traffic calming measures in Aston Clinton. On a recent traffic survey there was a 37% increase in car volumes from November 2024! Many were travelling at least 45 MPH in a 30MPH area. BPC approached Buckinghamshire Council to ask for some sort of traffic calming scheme. However, our initial ideas were rejected. We will continue to contact them about this issue.

Over the next few weeks, we are hoping to get some temporary signs from Bucks and place them along this stretch of road. These will act as a reminder to motorists of the speed. We are very mindful of the fact that this road is used heavily by runners, pedestrians, school children and dog walkers and there is no pavement on either side. BPC have a collection of free bin stickers that are available for residents to use. These can be stuck on the side of your wheelie bins. If you would like to have some please contact the parish clerk.

It is also timely for us to remind residents who walk along the roads during the late afternoon and evening at this time of year to make sure you are visible. With minimal streetlights and no paths beside the roads in our parish pedestrians are often not visible to drivers. Using your phone torch is not enough to be seen. If possible please wear reflective clothing.

BPC have received an increasing number of complaints about dog mess within the village recently, particularly in the Churchyard and Burial Ground. This is not



pleasant for anyone to witness, particularly in the Burial Ground where people are often visiting the graves of loved ones. There are plenty of dog bins within the village where you can deposit the waste. There have also been several reports of rubbish in Lower Buckland, again please take your rubbish home. Failing to remove dog mess and littering are offences and can result in hefty fines. Please help keep our community clean.

Planning

Buckinghamshire Council have decided to make several changes to the planning system within Buckinghamshire. The first is the removal of the ability to view comments on planning applications. They have also stopped Parish Councils viewing the comments, which makes it difficult for councillors to fully understand the views of the parish on some matters. The reasons Bucks are giving are GDPR related. Many parish councils and residents, including the local MP, have complained about this as other planning authorities often redact this information.

In addition to this Buckinghamshire Council will no longer display yellow notices outside properties where a planning application has been made. They have said they will notify neighbouring residents of plans via letters and within the press and on the website. BPC have already had instances where this notification has not happened. We have made Bucks aware of this. To keep residents informed we are now publishing any applications we receive on our website, our Facebook page and on our noticeboards. These are easily identifiable on the noticeboards as they are on orange sheets. If you do have any concerns re planning applications, please do get in contact with us.

Buckinghamshire Council has had a major overhaul of their planning portal online. If you have previously signed up for email alerts in your area you will now need to do this again. This can be done by visiting

<https://publicaccess.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/online-applications>

ARLA/Olleco liaison

Since the establishment of the ARLA/OLleco site Arla have held quarterly meetings with local residents and parish councils. These have enabled good communication between all parties on any matters of concern. Unfortunately, ARLA have decided to no longer hold these meetings which BPC find very concerning. We are currently trying to get them re-instated as they are a valuable communication tool.

We have been getting an increased number of reports of foul smells from the ARLA/Olleco site. If you notice any smells, please can you report them to <https://www.gov.uk/report-environmental-problem> or call 0800 80 70 60. These are details for the Environmental Agency. They have been very responsive to these complaints recently and followed them up and liaised with BPC about issues. If you are also able to let BPC know and include the reference number, it would be appreciated.

Your Local Councillors



In our last newsletter we introduced our Chair Jon Sainsbury to you, in this newsletter we are introducing Cllr Fiona Livingston, who is also Assistant Parish Clerk.

I have been a Parish councillor for around seven years now and have found it a very rewarding experience. It has given me a strong sense of community, and I have met many interesting people as a result. For most of that time I have been responsible for monitoring and reporting issues on our footpaths and bridleways; sometimes a frustrating task with current budget constraints, but it is important that these are properly maintained and can be enjoyed by all. I also have an involvement with our community orchard. Various grants and donations have

funded the planting of over thirty British native trees (including Black Poplar, native to the area but now much less common). We have planted several fruit trees, including the local Aylesbury Prune. We are hoping to establish a wildflower area next year which will benefit local wildlife. Last year we installed some benches, and I personally have enjoyed sitting in the orchard enjoying my surroundings. Buckland is a lovely place to live, and I am committed to do what I can to preserve that.

Website details: buckland-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: Buckland Parish Council

Contact details: Tel: 01296 630962 email: clerk@buckland-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Office is located upstairs in Buckland Village Hall. The clerk is generally in the office on a Monday and Thursday between 9am and 2pm. If you wish to talk to the clerk please make an appointment or use the doorbell at the entrance. The hall door is locked when the hall is not in use by hirers.